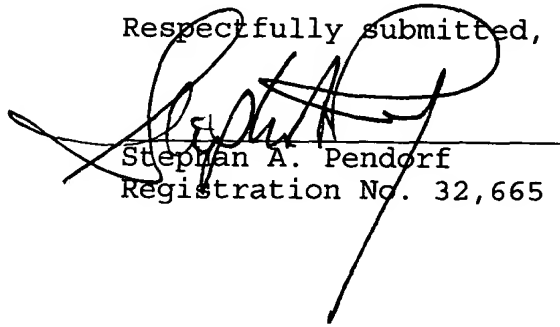


U.S. Application No.
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket: 3926.029

Entry and favorable consideration prior to consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Stephan A. Pendorf
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Date: May 30, 2001

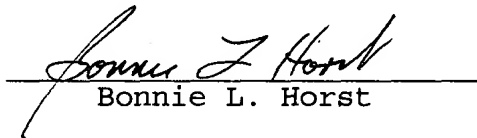
EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER: EL568147192US

DATE OF DEPOSIT: May 30, 2001

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated and is addressed: ATTN: BOX PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 16-0877.



Bonnie L. Horst

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